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## Afghanistan Situation Report

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11 June 1985

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**AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT****CONTENTS****SPRING CAMPAIGN**

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Soviet forces have broken through to Barikowt in their Konar Valley offensive and have mounted operations elsewhere in Afghanistan against the resistance.

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**USSR-AFGHANISTAN: WIDESPREAD AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS**

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The Soviets are making improvements--largely to protect aircraft from insurgent attacks--at three major airfields in Afghanistan.

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**ARIANA SELLS ITS DC-10**

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Ariana, under pressure from the USSR, recently sold its DC-10 and will replace it with Soviet aircraft.

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**PERSPECTIVE****MEDICAL CARE FOR AFGHAN INSURGENTS--AN UPDATE**

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Medical care for the insurgents remains poor but has improved because of the increased availability of trained Afghan paramedics. Foreign doctors also continue to operate inside Afghanistan despite increasingly aggressive Soviet military operations.

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Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis and the  
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on the issues raised in the publication should be  
directed to [redacted]

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**TOP SECRET****SPRING CAMPAIGN**

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According to press reports quoting insurgent sources, Soviet and Afghan forces broke the siege of Barikowt garrison on Friday. The Soviets claim to have destroyed 25 to 30 insurgent groups--consisting of some 2,000 guerrillas--and 20 weapons depots by 31 May. They reported that their own casualties through the same period amounted to about 300.

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Soviet and Afghan forces have mounted operations in other areas besides the Konar Valley this spring as part of a general campaign to weaken the resistance--reducing insurgent pressure on Afghan garrisons and stemming insurgent infiltration.

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**TOP SECRET****USSR-AFGHANISTAN: WIDESPREAD AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS**

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A review of imagery shows the Soviets are improving facilities at three of the four major airfields in Afghanistan.

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**Bagram.** An aircraft dispersal area with 14 revetments and a munitions holding apron was completed by 27 April. A second dispersal area with at least 10 revetments was started in early March. When completed, this will bring the number of revetments at Bagram to 36.

**Shindand.** By 10 May construction was completed on four larger revetments, each of which is capable of holding two combat aircraft of the types currently deployed to Afghanistan; they are not large enough for bombers. Construction was started in mid-February on another dispersal area with at least nine revetments, plus two parking/alert aprons and a probable munitions storage area. When completed, there will be at least 25 revetments at the airfield.

**Kabul.** An 800 meter runway extension was completed by 20 May. Work on the extension had begun in March 1983.

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**ARIANA SELLS ITS DC-10**

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Ariana has recently sold its DC-10 for approximately US \$35 million to British New Caledonia Airlines.

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[REDACTED] Ariana will purchase two or more Soviet aircraft to replace the DC-10. Embassy sources report that one aircraft will be an IL-62 and another is likely to be a TU-134. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** We believe the presence of US manufactured aircraft in Afghanistan has been an embarrassment for the Soviets. The sale of the DC-10 and its replacement with Soviet planes provides hard currency to Afghanistan and gives the Soviets greater control over Ariana. Ariana's two remaining Western aircraft--Boeing 727s--probably will be sold as soon as suitable buyers can be found. [REDACTED]

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**IN BRIEF**

-- Moderate leader Gailani said the resistance coalition has been inactive since its formation in early May. Resistance leaders in Peshawar have failed to name representatives to an assembly of members of the new coalition, according to Gailani, out of fear that fundamentalist leader Sayyaf may try to buy the representatives' loyalties. [REDACTED]

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-- The DRA has named a new Minister of Mines and Industries and new heads of the state news agency and central bank. Their appointments do not seem indicative of a factional or policy shift; all held second-echelon bureaucratic positions. The outgoing Minister of Mines and Industries is a candidate member of the Politburo; it is unclear whether he has fallen from favor or has been reassigned. [REDACTED]

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**PERSPECTIVE****MEDICAL CARE FOR AFGHAN INSURGENTS--AN UPDATE<sup>1</sup>**

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by [redacted] NESA

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Medical care for the insurgents remains poor, although an increase in the number of Afghan paramedics has resulted in some improvement in the last year. European doctors remain a major source of care for the insurgents inside Afghanistan, and several US doctors have also worked inside Afghanistan since 1984 despite more aggressive Soviet military operations.

[redacted] 25X1

**More Paramedics in Afghanistan**

The number of paramedics serving the insurgents has increased over the past year. Red Cross officials in Pakistan told US diplomats in March they gave about 1,250 Afghans a one-day first aid course and first aid kits and certified 79 Afghan paramedics who passed a four-week course from October 1984 to February 1985. The two Afghan medical associations in Pakistan also gave a one-year course to almost 100 insurgents over the last 12 months, according to Western observers. In addition, small Western, Pakistani, and Arab-backed philanthropic organizations operating in the border area have begun paramedic training classes in Pakistan within the last year. Many of the students come from eastern Afghanistan and are chosen by various resistance groups. [redacted] Western observers are concerned that many of those trained may stay in Pakistan because it is safer.

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[redacted] 25X1

Insurgent medical care has also improved because of training provided by European doctors working inside Afghanistan. The head of **Medecins Sans Frontieres**, the largest of two French-sponsored medical organizations with clinics in Afghanistan, told US officials that several Afghans learned to do surgical procedures from French doctors in the Panjsher Valley and treated wounded insurgents after a Soviet offensive drove the doctors out of the valley. Other Afghans have learned

[redacted]

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rudimentary medical skills, such as cleaning wounds, from European doctors, according to [redacted] Western observers. More Afghan Army defectors with rudimentary paramedical training have also joined insurgent groups, according to the observers. [redacted]

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Better clothing and equipment have helped reduce medical problems. Insurgents suffered from less frostbite last winter because more boots and parkas were available, say observers. [redacted]

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Despite this progress, Afghan insurgents and civilians still suffer from appalling medical problems. [redacted] Western observers say that at least 40 percent of the Afghan population suffers from respiratory diseases, including tuberculosis, and intestinal parasites. Many insurgents with moderate cuts or injuries become medical emergencies because of a lack of medical expertise and supplies. The insurgents commanded by Panjsher Valley leader Ahmad Masood--one of the best organized groups in Afghanistan--often lack gauze for bandages, vitamins to supplement poor diets, laboratory supplies, and x-ray machines, according to Western observers. [redacted]

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#### More Problems for European Doctors

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European doctors inside Afghanistan must deal with more aggressive Soviet military operations and better Soviet intelligence. A [redacted] Western observer who is in contact with many of the doctors says movement inside Afghanistan has become more dangerous because the Soviets are bombing the main infiltration routes more frequently. The director of **Medecins Sans Frontieres** says that Soviet intelligence began to improve in 1984 and that the Soviets, using local informers and reconnaissance aircraft, can now quickly locate French clinics. Bombing strikes occur shortly after Soviet planes spot the clinics, according to the Western observer. [redacted]

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Despite the increased danger, the overall number of European doctors has not yet declined significantly. While the number of **Medecins Sans Frontieres** medical personnel has declined from 25 to 15 over the last year, according to [redacted] Western observers, the number of West German medical personnel has increased from one to 10. A second French-run organization,

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**Medecins du Monde**, still operates in Wardak Province where conditions are relatively peaceful, but a third French-run organization, **Aid Medical Internationale**, moved to Pakistan after one of its doctors was captured by the Soviets and held for several months in 1983.

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#### A New American Presence

Representatives of the US-based International Medical Corps say they have set up three or four clinics in Paktia Province since 1984, each of which is staffed by a US doctor and several Afghan doctors and paramedics. The director says his organization will continue to operate inside Afghanistan. Another International Medical Corps doctor briefly visited Panjsher Valley leader Ahmad Masood in May 1985.

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#### Outlook

We believe that medical care for insurgents in Afghanistan will continue to improve. Insurgent leaders continue to send men to Pakistan for paramedical training, and those who have received training will train others. Training Afghans to teach other Afghans about rudimentary first aid and preventive medicine is, in our view, probably even more effective than setting up medical facilities and distributing medicines.

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Foreign Medical Organizations

Both French organizations operating in Afghanistan, **Medecin Sans Frontieres (MSF)** and **Medecins du Monde (MDM)**, are run by French personnel and probably are financed in part by the French government. Slightly more than half their personnel, however, are from other European countries. Neither **MSF** nor **MDM** has had problems getting volunteers despite the increased difficulties of operating in Afghanistan. **MSF** currently has eight personnel in the Mazar-e Sharif area and seven personnel in Badakhshan. The **MSF** director says his organization prefers to operate in northern Afghanistan because the need is greater. We also believe the **MSF** prefers to work there because the French government has supported the area's Jamiat-i-Islami organization. [redacted]

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**MSF** tries to keep the United States and Pakistan at arms length. The **MSF** director told US officials in 1984 he does not want US doctors on his medical teams because they would provoke the Soviets. He also believes close identification with the United States would alienate some Europeans. The director is certain that Pakistani officials know the **MSF** is operating out of Peshawar but believes the officials prefer not to be asked for formal permission to do so. [redacted]

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West German medical personnel in Afghanistan are supported by Union Aid, a private Afghan organization that is given assistance by West German and Japanese parliamentary groups, and by the privately funded Bonn Afghanistan Committee, according to the US Embassy.

[redacted]

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The US-based International Medical Corps (IMC) was founded by an American doctor, Robert Simon, who spent six weeks in Afghanistan in 1984. The IMC has raised funds for Afghan medical care, brought its first Afghan doctor to the US for six months of training in March 1985, and plans to open an office in Peshawar. [redacted]

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